

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NASSAU 00218 061734Z

71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 DRC-01 /091 W

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R 061707Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5204

UNCLAS NASSAU 218

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BF

SUBJECT: JANUARY NARCOTICS WRAP-UP

1. ILLICIT DRUG ACTIVITIES SHOWED A SLIGHT RISE IN JANUARY, LARGELY DUE TO AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS APPREHENDED FOR POSSESSION OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF MARIJUANA.

2. A LOCAL MORTICIAN IS BEING HELD IN NASSAU ALONG WITH A BAHAMIAN REALTOR ON CHARGES OF HAVING ORGANIZED A SCHEME TO SMUGGLE QUANTITIES OF MARIJUAN INTO THE BAHAMAS. THE MORTICIAN, REV CARL RAHMING, WOULD CONTRACT WITH A JAMAICAN UNDERTAKER TO SHIP "MORTAL REMAINS" TO NASSAU AND THE COFFIN WOULD IN DUE COURSE ARRIVE IN NASSAU, LOADED WITH MARIJUANA. REV RAHMING IS OUT ON \$3,000. BAIL PENDING TRIAL AND THE REALTOR, BUSTER CHARLES COLEBROOKE, IS BEING HELD WITHOUT BAIL BECAUSE OF THREATS TO PROSECUTION WITNESSES.

3. THE PRACTICE OF LOCAL POLICE IN ERECTING SURPRISE ROADBLOCKS TO SEARCH FOR DRUGS (SEPTEMBER WRAP-UP) IS APPARENTLY YIELDING RESULTS. FOUR PERSONS WERE ARRESTED FOR MARIJUANA POSSESSION IN A SINGLE EVENING. A BAHAMIAN MAGISTRATE TOLD ONE PRISONER BEFORE FINING HIM \$300, "THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE BROUGHT BEFORE ME FOR THIS KIND OF OFFENSE, LOOK AROUND AT YOUR SURROUNDINGS GOOD BECAUSE IT WILL BE AT LEAST SIX MONTHS BEFORE YOU SEE THEM AGAIN."

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PAGE 02 NASSAU 00218 061734Z

4. MISS NICKI SOREN SCHOENFELD, A 26 YEAR OLD MODEL FROM NEW YORK, WAS ARRESTED ABOARD A YACHT IN NASSAU HARBOR AND CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF ONE LSD CAPSULE AND A SMALL AMOUNT OF MARIJUANA. THE LOCAL MAGISTRATE WHO SENTENCED HER TO PAY \$800. OR SPEND SIX MONTHS IN JAIL NOTED THAT LSD WAS A SUBSTANCE WHICH ENTITLED ITS POSSESSOR TO A LENGTHY JAIL TERM IN THE BAHAMAS BUT WAS LENIENT WITH HER BECAUSE HE BELIEVED SHE WAS NEITHER A USER NOR A TRAFFICKER.

5. THE BAHAMIAN POLICE FORCE REPORTED ON JANUARY 30 THAT DURING 1972 ARRESTS FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF DRUGS IN THE BAHAMAS INCREASED BY 51 PERCENT. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF SUCH OFFENDERS WERE NON BAHAMIAN.

6. THE BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT WILL HOST A CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON "STRATEGIES FOR THE PREVENTION OF DRUG ABUSE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" TO BE HELD AT THE SONESTA BEACH HOTEL OUTSIDE NASSAU MARCH 3-5. THIS REGIONAL CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON PROBLEMS OF "SOFT" DRUG USE AND WILL COVER POSSIBLE REMEDIES IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION, LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT, AS WELL AS REHABILITATION.

7. A TOTAL OF 14 US CITIZENS WERE ARRESTED DURING JANUARY FOR POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS.
SPIERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, DATA, ARRESTS, TOURISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NASSAU00218
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740252/aaaabwqu.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2002 by bryansd0>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY NARCOTICS WRAP-UP
TAGS: SNAR, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005